

Russian Wilderness

Klamath National Forest



General Information

The 12,000 acre Russian Wilderness spans the major ridge dividing the Scott and Salmon River drainages. It contains 22 lakes, most set in glacial bowls surrounded by granite peaks. This area is of national botanical significance because of the great diversity of trees and other plant species. An extensive trail system, including the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT), accesses many high mountain lakes in the Russian Wilderness.

Access to Trailheads

From I-5, take the South Yreka/Highway 3 exit. Follow Highway 3 to Etna. For trailhead access to *Etna Summit*, *South Russian*, *Music Creek* and *Taylor Lake* follow Sawyers Bar Road from Etna. For *Paynes Lake* and *Duck/Eaton* follow Highway 3 south, turn off at French Creek Rd. For *Bingham Lake* and *Deacon Lee* follow Highway 3 to Callahan, turn right at Cecilville Rd.

Facilities at Trailheads

Parking and turnaround space is available at the trailheads. Taylor Lake Trailhead space is limited. There is no water available at any of the trailheads. Please pack out all trash.

Etna Summit - PCT Trailhead

(5960 foot elevation; R10W T41 S21)

Upper Ruffy Lake - The lake is stocked with Eastern brook trout, and is outside the wilderness boundary.

Smith Lake - Eastern brook, rainbow and brown trout have been caught in Smith Lake. This lake is outside the wilderness boundary. Camping spots are very limited.

Paynes Lake - You can usually find eastern brook and rainbow trout. Numerous campspots are available. The trail follows the ridgeline and is a gradual climb to the lake. This is the longest route into the lake, but is very scenic. Stockmen should be cautioned of narrow, bluffy areas and lingering snowbanks on the trail.

Albert and Upper Albert Lakes - The lake has brook trout. It is located 400 yards beyond Paynes Lake and is 500 ft. higher in elevation.

Syphon Lake - Syphon Lake is named for an old mining syphon at it's outlet. The lake contains rainbow trout. It is found near the intersection with the Deacon Lee Trail .

Taylor Lake Trailhead

(6400 foot elevation; R10W T41 S26)

Taylor Lake - The trail to the lake is an easy walk! It has been designed to accommodate families with young children, elderly less-mobile visitors, and physically challenged of all ages. Wheelchairs are permitted in the wilderness; those with wider tires are recommended as the trail surface is packed earth and the gradient is 1% to 2%. Taylor Lake is heavily used. Fishing for eastern brook trout is best early and late in the season.

Hogan Lake - This rectangular lake has rainbow and eastern brook trout. There are some campspots at the lake. Follow the trail at the upper end of Taylor Lake up and over the ridge down across Hogan Creek. Follow the faint trail up the drainage to the lake. The trail can be difficult to follow in the meadow areas.

South Russian Trailhead

(4650 foot elevation; R10W T40 S22)

South Russian Creek - Good day hike. The first two miles of this trail are fairly level and alternate between old-growth trees and lush meadows.

Waterdog Lake - Waterdog Lake has brook and rainbow trout. There are limited campspots at the lake. This trail is steep and difficult in places.

Russian Lake - The deep blue water of Russian Lake contains rainbow trout. There are limited campspots at the lake. From the upper end of Waterdog Lake, it is a ¼ mile hike to Russian Lake.

Music Creek Trailhead

(6000 foot elevation; R10W T40 S12)

Lipstick Lake - Eastern brook trout can be found in tiny Lipstick Lake. Follow the trail past the PCT. Then look for the Lipstick Lake Trail sign and hike another mile.

Paynes Lake - Find the intersection of this trail and the PCT, turn north and hike 1½ miles further to the lake. For description of lake see *Etna Summit - PCT Trailhead*.



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Paynes Lake Trailhead

(4400 foot elevation; R9W T40 S6)

Paynes Lake - This trail to Paynes Lake is steep. For description of lake see *Etna Summit - PCT Trailhead*.

Albert and Upper Albert Lakes - For description of lake see *Etna Summit - PCT Trailhead*.

Duck/Eaton Trailhead

(4800 foot elevation; R9W T40 S7)

NOTE: Many of these trails follow abandoned roads that were in use before the wilderness was congressionally designated in 1984.

Lipstick Lake - Follow the signed trail along the roadbed past Horse Range Creek. Look for the Lipstick Lake Trail sign. For description of lake and trail end see *Music Creek Trailhead*.

Big Duck Lake - Big Duck contains both eastern brook and rainbow trout. There are campspots at the lake. The trail to the lake is fairly steep.

Little Duck Lake - This lake contains eastern brook trout. The last ½ mile of the trail can be obscure.

Eaton Lake - There are rainbow trout in the lake. The trail to this private lake can be hard to follow and very steep. A smaller lake lies above Eaton Lake. This trail is not recommended for stock.

Horseshoe Lake - Both rainbow and brook trout can be found in Horseshoe Lake.

Wilderness Education

- * To preserve the natural environment, leave any area looking like you had never been there.
- * Using pelletized feed decreases the risk of introducing non-native species of plants into the wilderness.
- * Traveling in Small groups enhances your wilderness experience.

Bingham Lake Trailhead

(7600 foot elevation; R9W T40 S31)

Bingham Lake - Bingham Lake contains rainbow trout. This lake is very popular and receives heavy use. It is not advisable to take livestock down to the lake.

Deacon Lee Trailhead

(6850 foot elevation; R10W T39 S8)

Waterdog Lake - For description of lake see *South Russian Trailhead*. Because this lake is easily accessed it receives very heavy use.

Russian Lake - For description of lake see *South Russian Trailhead*.

Syphon Lake - Hike ¾ of a mile beyond the turnoff to Waterdog Lake to reach Syphon Lake. For description of lake see *Etna Summit - PCT Trailhead*.

Wilderness Regulations

- Respect the solitude of others.
- Possessing or using motorized equipment of any type is illegal in wilderness areas.
- Hang gliders and bicycles are prohibited.
- Be sure your fire is completely extinguished before leaving it.
- Protect water quality. Dispose of waste water in a suitable location away from the water source.
- Pack out anything you pack in.
- Do not cut or damage live trees or shrubs. Do not construct "improvements" (such as lean-to's or shelters).
- Do not dispose of human waste within 200 feet of any lake, stream, spring, campsite, or trail.
- Grazing of livestock is not permitted prior to July 1st. (Native vegetation is not ready before this date.)
- Limit party size to 25 people or less.

About Wilderness Areas

"An enduring resource...where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

Wilderness provides you with opportunities to experience a natural environment, seek solitude, and use outdoor skills. You will face some natural hazards and personal inconveniences. There are no improvements or facilities for your comfort, and no telephones or emergency services immediately at hand. Weather can be unpredictable and severe.

There are few signs on the trails. It is advisable to obtain maps of the areas you plan to visit.

The wilderness belongs to you. Please help protect this special place by practicing low impact travelling and camping skills.

Lake	Elevation (feet)	Size (acre)	Depth (feet)	Campsite Use Level	Trailhead Access	Miles To Hike	Difficulty (hiker)
Albert	6900	2.6	15	Moderate	Etna Summit Paynes Lake	7 3 ½	Moderate Difficult
Bingham	7050	8.5	55	High	Bingham Lake	2 ½	Difficult
Big Duck	6400	25.8	27	Moderate	Duck/Eaton	4	Moderate
Little Duck	6700	5.2	18	Moderate	Duck/Eaton	4 ½	Difficult
Eaton	6600	11	27	Moderate	Duck/Eaton	4 ½	Difficult
Hogan	5950	7.4	26	High	Taylor Lake	3 ¼	Mod. to Diff.
Horseshoe	6400	6.1	21	Moderate	Duck/Eaton	4	Moderate
Lipstick	6350	1.25	9	Moderate	Duck/Eaton Music Creek	4 3	Difficult Moderate
Paynes	6450	16.7	50+	High	Etna Summit Paynes Lake Music Creek	6 ½ 3 3	Moderate Difficult Moderate
Upper Ruffy	6400	2.5	8	High	Etna Summit	2 ½	Moderate
Russian	7100	5	72	High	Deacon Lee South Russian	4 ½ 5 ¾	Moderate Mod. to Diff.
Smith	6950	5.9	56	Moderate	Etna Summit	4	Moderate
Syphon	7250	1.7	22	High	Etna Summit Deacon Lee	13 4 ½	Moderate Moderate
Taylor	6500	12	35	Very High	Taylor Lake	½	Easy
Waterdog	7000	3.5	16	High	Deacon Lee South Russian	4 ¼ 5 ½	Moderate Mod. to Diff.
Sugar	5850	2.5	6	Moderate	Non-maint. trail		
South Sugar	6850	3.5		Moderate	Non-maint. trail		
Upper Albert	7150	1.8	15	Moderate	No trail		
Big Blue	6800	17	96	Moderate	No trail		
High	7300	4.6	55	Low	No trail		
Horse Range	6600	2.5	5	Moderate	No trail		
Josephine	7350	1-4	7-16	Moderate	No trail		
Golden Russian	6800	1.5	8	Low	No trail		
Lower Russian	6500	2	12	Low	No trail		
Statue	7200	.7	15	Moderate	No trail		

Trail Difficulty Scale

Easy: A trail requiring limited skill with little challenge to travel.

Moderate: A trail requiring some skill and challenge to travel.

Difficult: A trail requiring high degree of skill and challenge to travel.

Campsite Use Levels

"Use Level" is defined as the number of campspots found occupied on an average summer weekend.

Low: 0-1 campspot is occupied.

Moderate: Half of the campspots are occupied.

High: All of the campspots are occupied.

This information is subject to change. For current information contact:

Salmon River and Scott River Ranger Districts
11263 N. Highway 3
Fort Jones, CA 96032
(530) 468-5351 (voice) or (530) 468-1298 (TDD)

Klamath National Forest
1312 Fairlane Road
Yreka, CA 96097
(530) 842-6131 (voice) or (530) 841-4573 (TDD)

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Russian Wilderness Map

